Demand by Tamil Nadu for increase in royalty on lignite

1091. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has been urging the Central Government to raise royalty on lignite for more than a year;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would accept the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) A proposal for enhancement of the existing rate of royalty on lignite has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu and is under consideration of the Government.

Expenditure on welfare activities in coalfields

† l092. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for the development and welfare activities in the urban and rural areas of South-East coalfields and Mahanadi Coalfields during the years 1995-96 and 1999-2000;

(b) the works on which and the places where such amount was spent; and

(c) the details of the funds spent and areas selected for these works in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the amount spent during 1995-96 and 1999-2000 for the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.